REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the claims are amended to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. Further, subject matter of the canceled multiple dependencies are now set forth in new dependent claims 18-21.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

GJM/SNS:sjh

I:\ATTY\SNS\283027us-pr.DOC

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423 Attorneys of Record